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TO AMERICAN PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS
Page 6

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SOUTH VIETNAM ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 5, 1967

U.S.-Controlled Bases, Towns and Townlets in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces Violently Attacked

The L. A. F. : **• Wiped Out 1,845 Enemy Soldiers • Destroyed 200 Military Vehicles, 10 105mm and 155mm Artillery Pieces, 3 Aircraft and Ammunition Dumps • Seized a Big Quantity of Weapons and War Materials.** PAGE 8

FAILURE OF U.S. STRATEGY :

FIASCO OF "DESTRUCTION" AND "PACIFICATION" OPERATIONS

A PLAN BESET WITH DIFFICULTIES AND CONTRADICTIONS

THE Americans have large effectives, a tremendous fire power, great mobility, an up-to-date network of tele-communications. Far from being essential, these transient strong points cannot be brought into full play by soldiers with a low morale; their impact is limited by the tactics of a skilful adversary.

The "two-pronged pincer plan" is ridden with difficulties and contradictions:

1. Formerly, the Americans used to carry out "pacification" only after having recorded military successes, i.e. after having annihilated the main force of the L.A.F. Beaten, they have now recourse to "pacification", thus **wanting to turn a failure into a success.**

2. "Pacification" with a view to "winning over the population" requires a relatively stable puppet power. But such is not the case. The puppet administration **has proved weak and rotten.** It has disintegrated in the districts and villages. The big shots of the regime have been quarrelling with one another. Contradictions among various factions have grown ever more acute. Numerous high officials have resigned. The bickering and struggle for power between the so-called Constituent Assembly and the Thieu-Ky clique is dragging out. Many generals have been sent abroad, a large number of officers dismissed.

Ngo Dinh Diem failed to "pacify" the countryside and his network of "strategic hamlets" finally collapsed although he enjoyed absolute military superiority and some political stability and had extensive reactionary political organizations in the villages. How can the Americans succeed in their "pacification" venture now that **heavy military failures reduce them to the defensive and the puppet administration is weak and rotten?**

3. The puppet troops constitute the main "pacification" force. Most o them have usually to fight our guerillas, destroy our revolutionary bases and control the population. On the other hand, the U.S. command want to prevent their disintegration, avoid arousing nationalist feeling and hatred among the people, which would be stirred up if the G.I.'s tackled "pacification" work.

But the present puppet army is made up by no other elements than the remnants of a routed army formerly in the pay of the French colonialists. Since 1959, it has suffered defeat after defeat in its efforts to terrorize and impound the population. According to the *New York Times* of December 1966, the Saigon army is no effective combat force; the arrival of U.S. combat units since the beginning of 1965 has not boosted the morale of its officers and soldiers; it is impossible to retrieve this situation, for this army has been affected by innate shortcomings, bad command, cruelty to the population, corruption and lack of fighting spirit.

A high-ranking American official and adviser declared that five out of the ten Saigon divisions lacked combat capacities, i.e. they

(Continued page 2)

An enemy blockhouse or a tank is blown up after each shell lobbed by the L.A.F.

Photo GPX (Liberation Press Agency)

FIASCO OF "DESTRUCTION" AND "PACIFICATION" OPERATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

could not fight or fought badly.

American journalist Peter Arnett described "pacification team" members as men shirking difficulties and dangers, that dared not sleep at night in strategic hamlets.

Thus, the Americans have assigned a thankless task to a defeated army, have been using an army of cruel and dishonest mercenaries to "win the hearts and minds of the people", a scattered army which has been badly mauled even when gathered together to face the three offensives* of the people's war.

Is it not obvious that **they oppose their fundamental weak point to our fundamental strong point, which is tantamount to opposing an egg to a hammer?**

4. Committing the puppet troops to "pacification" work, the U.S. Command wants to preserve the very existence of the "National Army of the Republic of Vietnam" by shielding them from the telling blows of our main-force units. Far from being grateful to their masters, the puppet troops complain that they are but auxiliary troops who are despised and enjoy no confidence. According to the American press, Phan Trong Chinh, commander of the 25th Division, and other Saigon officers are not glad of the new part the South Vietnam Army has to play. It is reported that the commanders of the 10th, 5th and 21st Divisions have joined Phan Trong Chinh in the protest.

5. The U.S. Command is faced with a big contradiction between the aim of "pacification" and the measures taken to carry it out. It wants to control the population, "win their hearts and minds", but it is forced to use terror, destroy crops and villages with a view to herding the peasants. **Such steps can but exasperate their mounting hatred.**

6. The quality of U.S. expeditionary troops, the main force used to destroy our bases and wipe out our regular units, has seriously diminished with their massive build-up.

The morale of American troops has been sinking for over one year as the most seasoned units of all arms have been badly mauled. The situation has gone from bad to worse as the movement of opposition to the U.S. war of aggression has kept surging all the world over, even in the U.S.A.

The Pentagon has been obliged to repatriate the GI's that have spent one year in the South Vietnam theatre to replace them by others **that have no combat experience in South Vietnam, nor are accustomed to the terrain, climate...**

Besides this unfavourable factor, the U.S. Command has to face a lot of other difficulties and fundamental contradictions which grow ever more acute.

The Americans want and have to win rapidly, but must wage a protracted war. The more protracted the war is, the more unfavourable is the balance of forces for them. A protracted war gives rise to more expenses, affect more adversely the economy and the American people's life and costs more lives. The American people's opposition grows stronger and more dissensions emerge among U.S. ruling circles. Wider sections of world opinion, are increasingly critical of Washington's Vietnam policy and the U.S.A. is becoming more and more isolated.

The Americans want to concentrate troops to a high degree in order to knock down their adversary rapidly. As a matter of fact, they are obliged to scatter their forces, being thus exposed to attacks in more areas and to more defeats.

The Americans want to keep on the mask of neo-colonialism with a good deal of drum-beating about "freedom", "assistance", "allied". But as they have to bear the brunt of the war more and more directly, they more and more openly regard the puppet administration and troops as their lackeys... Fulbright has put things rather crudely at the Congress: Thus, the "neo-colonialism" trick no longer pays and the U.S. forces get bogged down deeper in a quagmire.

The above fundamental difficulties and contradictions derive from the unjust and reactionary nature of the U.S. aggressive war. They are unsurmountable and will grow more acute and affect U.S. war efforts. Many Americans have seen it. The American press itself acknowledged that many evils which had wrecked Diem's "strategic hamlet" plan still existed.

OUR PEOPLE'S FACTORS OF SUCCESS ARE FUNDAMENTAL ONES

WE have permanent and fundamental strong points which have been acknowledged even by our enemy:

1. Our resistance to aggression is just by nature. Our entire army and people are united and determined to struggle for independence, freedom and national reunification. Our people have fought for their fundamental aspirations generation after generation, their traditions of staunchness and of selfless dedication to the cause of the revolution have ever been enhanced. Aware that staunchness and revolutionary heroism have so far helped them frustrate all U.S.-Saigon schemes, they are eager to promote these virtues regarded as key factors of success.

Our army and people are bound to shatter the new U.S. plan.

The South Vietnam people are struggling on the large front of the nation. They are backed by solid rear with 17 million Northern brothers and sisters, the wholehearted assistance of the socialist camp and a world-wide support.

2. We enjoyed the clear-sighted and steady leadership of the South Vietnam N.F.L. Our political and military line has proved correct, creative, flexible, superior and invincible. Our leading organizations and cadres at all levels have been improving with every passing day; they have been acquiring more and more experiences in the application of this line.

3. Our people are heroic. For many decades, they have been pounding and gaining a lot of experiences in the revolutionary struggle. For the last six to seven years, the South Vietnam people have thwarted several U.S.-Saigon "pacification" plans: "agricultural settlements", "strategic hamlets", "pacification of key-areas". They have shattered to pieces many enemy administrative machines, punished traitors to the people and reactionaries, undermined the prestige of all reactionary political factions and parties, built up stable people's political bases everywhere.

4. We are in a favourable strategic position. The seasoned L.A.F. units, which have grown rapidly, have been fielded in a fairly rational manner in all strategic theatres, from Quang Tri—Thua Thien (near the 17th parallel) to Southern Trung Bo, from the western High Plateaux (Tay Nguyen) to the sea coast of Central Trung Bo, from the jungle of East Nam Bo to the Mekong delta... The people's war has developed in liberated areas, disputed areas, enemy-controlled areas as far as Saigon and its outskirts. Our army and people have dealt telling blows at U.S. bases in Long Binh, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhat, on the Long Tau river and inside Saigon. We spread pain the enemy to annihilate them, thereby turning their material superiority into weakness. We strike them from all sides; we are ready to fight them off. We keep developing the initiative and offensive, driving the adversary into increasing passivity and pinning them down.

5. The L.A.F. have taken big strides.

They have proportionately increased in numbers so that the ratio has not changed to the advantage of the enemy, though in a year, the Pentagon sent in 200,000 GI's, i.e. more than doubled its troop strength from the beginning to the end of 1966. Unable to do better, U.S. military personalities no longer dared to speak of the 10-to-1 ratio or even of the 7-to-1 ratio, usually considered imperative for a victory by counter-insurgency experts.

But our essential progress is qualitative. The three kinds of armed forces — guerilla, local and regular forces—have made political, ideological, technical and tactical progress, acquired abundant combat experiences, and improved their organization and command. They can face and defeat U.S. units of any arms.

It goes without saying that we have to make utmost efforts in our struggle against a 1,000,000-strong army, against the chieftain of imperialism, the richest, the most obdurate and cruel imperialism. We are bound to meet with many difficulties and obstacles as we did before. The Americans can do great damage to our people's property and cause a lot of casualties among the people, destroy our economic structures. But their crimes have not so far helped them turn the tide.

Our entire army and people are more and more conscious that they have to endure every sacrifice and every hardship to conquer independence and freedom. The nearer the day of victory is, the greater sacrifices and hardships are. We should be aware that however great our present hardships may be, they would be trifles in comparison with our sufferings and humiliations if we were deprived of our independence and freedom and had to live as slaves generation after generation under foreign occupation. On the other hand, for the last two decades, we have fought the French colonialists, the Japanese fascists, waged a long resistance war, defeated the U.S. "special war". Is it not clear that never before, we have had so big forces has our revolution been so steady; we have enjoyed such great and warm support and encouragement?

We have an inexhaustible source of strength to carry the day.

OUR armed forces should be aware that we must check the new enemy move with every means available: armed struggle, political struggle, agitation among enemy troops. The army and the people should closely co-operate in fighting the enemy, the army actively sticking to the people, helping them and defending them. We should do our best to wipe out many American, satellite and puppet forces, regular units, "pacification" teams and thugs included. We should fight off every enemy "sweep", redouble our blows at communication lines and bases, increase and improve the quality of our regular, local and guerilla forces.

The defeat of the "two-pronged pincer plan" will have great significance for our resistance against U.S. aggression. After two years of limited war, the U.S. imperialists' confidence in victory has been strongly shaken by heavy setbacks. But the enemy mulish as they are cannot reconcile themselves to defeat. By foiling their new plan, we shall drive them to an unprecedented tragical situation: they will have to reconsider a series of vital problems with regard to the limited war: their will of aggression will be put to an acid test; we shall take a historic step on our road to complete victory and open up great prospects to our people's revolutionary war.

Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. It is the reason why we have been struggling for decades. Aware of the importance of thwarting the "two-pronged pincer plan", our entire army will promote revolutionary heroism, make more efforts, do its best to wipe out enemy forces; it does not fear any sacrifice and difficulty, it is resolute to go ahead to carry the day, and will not let the enemy improve their situation.

The failure of the U.S. "two-pronged pincer plan" is a foregone conclusion.

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* *Armed struggle, political struggle, agitation among the puppet troops.*

News from CAMBODIA

CAMBODIAN HEAD OF STATE NORODOM SIHANOUK:

"We unite closely with the brotherly Vietnamese people and fight resolutely against U.S. aggressors"

ON Apr. 9, 1967, at a reception ceremony of Soviet military aid, Cambodgian Head of State Norodom Sihanouk paid tribute to the close friendship and militant solidarity between Vietnam and Cambodia in their anti-imperialist struggle, the Pnom Penh correspondent of the *Vietnam News Agency* reported:

"*I would like to underline*", he said, "*that Cambodia will not flinch from any effort or sacrifice to defend her freedom. On the other hand, as our friends know well, we unite closely with the Vietnamese people now struggling valiantly against American fascist aggressors and we fully support the D.R.V., now the target of savage U.S. air and naval bombardment.*

"*We have full confidence in the victory of those fighters who are struging for justice and for the right to self determination of all nations, in order to allow the people of the indo-Chinese states to settle their internal affairs without either military intervention or foreign interference*".

Referring to Cambodia's achievements in wiping out the U.S. aggressors and lackeys, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk pointed out: "*We have inflicted losses on them. We have brought down many U.S. planes. These planes have attacked our peasants right in their villages and our armymen right at their posts. The war trophies we have put on display in Pnom Penh, on the Bassac River bank testifies to these victories*".

"*Together with our Vietnamese brothers*", the Cambodian Head of State Norodom Sihanouk stressed, "*we shall never submit nor cease fighting as long as the U.S. aggressors still remain in Indo-China and as long as our right to complete independence and territorial integrity is not recognized*".

ACTIVITIES OF THE 4th INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION IN VIETNAM

THE 4th Investigation Commission of the International Tribunal to try U.S. war crimes in Vietnam has arrived in Hanoi. A group of the delegation composed of Mr Charles Cobb, central committe member of the S.N.C.C., a revolutionary organization of the negroes and Mr. Julius Lester, a negro artist in charge of the photographic section of the S.N.C.C. has investigated the crimes perpetrated by the American aggressors in Thanh Hoa, Vinh Yen and Nam Ha and met the departments concerned of the D.R.V. in Hanoi.

A group of the commission immediately went to Thanh Hoa and NgheAn provinces for investigations. Another group comprised Gisele Halimi, an advocate of the Paris Court of Appeal, a member of the Law Commission of the Tribunal; Francis Kahn, Professor of the Paris Faculty of Medicine, a member of the scientific commission of the Tribunal and Marcello Cini, Professor of Physics, Rome University.

During its more than 1,200km travel through many areas frequently and intensively raided by U.S. aircraft, apart from meeting the local Commissions for Investigation of U.S. Crimes and hearing their reports, the group also visited many bombed areas, contacted many eye-witnesses and gathered many important documents and evidence.

The group was particularly interested in the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. since it took new escalation steps early this year.

During its investigations in the towns of Vinh and Thanh Hoa members of the group inspected many populated residential quarters, public civilian projects, hospitals, schools, churches and pagodas heavily damaged by bombs. For example, the U.S. air raid against Thanh Hoa town on Jan. 20, 25 and 29, 1967 had razed to the ground the Ba Dinh quarter, another on Feb. 4, 1967 has demolished the *Hai Voi* pagoda, both situated in the centre of the city. In particular, during its trip to Vinh town, the group itself witnessed an air raid on a populated area in the town at 11.30 a.m. while the group was conducting investigations in a neighbouring areas. In all 18 bombs were dropped on this quarter.

The group also came to the Do Luong dam, an important irrigation project of Nghe An damaged by U.S. air raids on Apr. 2 and 3, 1967.

It met many eye-witnesses and examined many raided places where the U.S. had committed numerous crimes in its new escalations. These were of course purely civilian areas having no military character nor anything to do with the so-called "military targets":

— The Tam Hong agricultural co-operative in Thinh Son village, Anh Son district, Nghe An province. During a raid on Mar 24, 1967 ten villagers were killed and 16 wounded.

— The Nam Thang co-op, Quynh Lau district where 30 people died in the bombing on Mar 26, 1967.

In Thanh Hoa province the group carried out investigations into an utterly savage bombardment in an area on the upper reaches of the Ma river on Jan. 29, 1967 by dozens of American aircraft following careful reconnaissance flights.

On the left bank of the river, 32 bombs had been dropped on a small hamlet of a co-operative in Vinh An village, Vinh Loc district, killing 23 people including 9 children and 3 old women. A nursery was completely demolished.

On the right bank, a U.S. raid had caused extremely heavy losses to the people of Yen Hong hamlet, Dinh Tan village, Yen Dinh district: 51 people killed, 53 others wounded. 114 houses destroyed or damaged. More than 50 bombs from 500 lbs. upward each had been dropped on an area no larger than 125 hectares.

The Dinh Tien dyke about 4km from Yen Hong hamlet had also been struck by 68 bombs. Many bombs hit the dyke itself, cutting it in many places and damaging many other portions on a length of nearly 500 metres. This is a vital dyke bordering a river bend with swift water. It should be pointed out that the dyke is not an important communication line but is usable only by ox-carts. The group itself could confirm the fact since its cars moved with great difficulty on the dyke.

It was also interested in the crimes committed by warships of the U.S. 7th Fleet. It came to Hung Dung village on the outskirts of Vinh town which was bombarded by U.S. warships on Mar. 4, 1967.

The shelling killed 9 civilians including 7 people from a 8 member family who perished in an air-raid shelter.

It also inquired into the bombardments on Quynh Lau and Tinh Gia districts as well as on the provincial capital. While it was in Quynh Luu, U.S. warships many times bombarded coastal areas there.

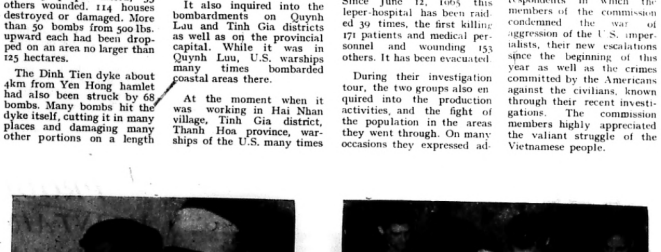
At the moment when it was working in Hai Nhan village, Tinh Gia district, Thanh Hoa province, warships of the U.S. many times shelled the village, wounding many farmers on their fields and damaging many dwellings of the local population. A child was killed and substantial material losses caused to the population. One of its cars was hit by a shell splinter. It immediately left its shelters to conduct on-the-spot investigations. Afterwards it issued a joint communiqué with the local authorities condemning this barbarous shelling of a populated area.

While in Quyah Luu, Dr Francis Kahn, a member of the group, went to Quynh Lap to inquire into the raids conducted by U.S. aircraft against the leprosium there. Since June 12, 1965 this leper-hospital has been raided 39 times, the first killing 171 patients and medical personnel and wounding 153 others. It has been evacuated.

During their investigation tour, the two groups also enquired into the production activities, and the fight of the population in the areas they went through. On many occasions they expressed admiration for the gallantry and indomitable spirit of the population as well as their firm confidence in the final victory of the Vietnamese people.

Wherever they went, the groups gave their pledge to do their best to denounce to the International War Crimes Tribunal as well as public opinion the crimes of aggression of the U.S. imperialists and other war crimes committed against the people of North Vietnam.

On the afternoon of April 4, 1967, the 4th International Tribunal Commission held in Hanoi a press conference attended by Vietnamese journalists and foreign correspondents in which the members of the commission condemned the war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, their new escalations since the beginning of this year as well as the crimes committed by the Americans against the civilians, known through their recent investigations. The commission members highly appreciated the valiant struggle of the Vietnamese people.



Mme Gisèle Halimi and a 12 years old girl, victim of a U.S. air raid on Quynh Hung village, Nghe An province.

Russel Tribunal 4th international investigation commission memlers examine a dud bomb dropped by the Yankees on a populous quarter of Vinh on April 5, 1967.

Poor Mr. Humphrey !

ALL is not for the best within the Atlantic alliance, that's the least that could be said about it. Various reasons have contributed to shaking U.S. leadership but one may assert that American aggression in Vietnam, and the barbarity with which it has been waged have largely accounted for a serious weakening of American influence in Europe. From March 28 to April 10, U.S. Vice President Humphrey went on a pilgrimage to various European capitals in an effort to collect, if not consistent support, at least symbolic gestures of sympathy or words of comfort.

Rome, Paris, The Hague, London, Brussels and even West Berlin greeted Humphrey with violent demonstrations: angry crowds called the Washington leaders murderers, threw bags of paint at the U.S. Vice President's car. The American flag was publicly burnt in Paris.

Although on the whole Europeans are progressive-minded people, there are in Western Europe plenty of colonialist and fascist diehards who are warm supporters of American policy. But they didn't show up during Humphrey's trip. There are quite a few European governments which are faithful to Washington or bound to it by tight financial ties. Yet, not a single government, nor the Pope, wanted to sign any kind of joint communiqué with the U.S. Vice President. Even the Americans' faithful broker, Wilson, dit not dare to promise even a token British contingent. Nobody dares to tie himself to an adventure which threatens to end in disaster.

American prestige has never been so low in Europe: Humphrey received more bags of paint than Nixon had got in Latin America a few years ago.

If proof was needed of the almost total isolation of the United States in the world, Humphrey's trip supplied plenty of it. No hypocritical show by Washington of its "will for peace" can shore up American influence in the world. The United States find itself more and more lonely in its criminal war. Poor Mr. Humphrey !

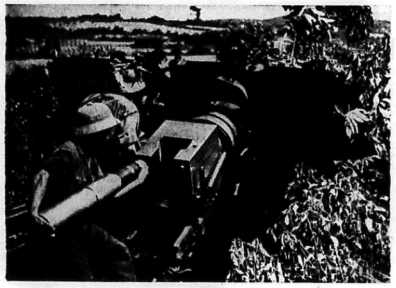
NORTH VIETNAM ARTILLERY PUNISHES NEW U.S. ESCALATIONS

Between Feb. 26 and Apr. 7, 1967:

It Hit and Damaged U.S. Warships Fourteen Times and Sank One Puppet Commando Boat.

On Mar. 20, 1967:

It Shelled U.S. Artillery Positions at Doc Mieu (Quang Tri), Wiping Out, 1,070 G.I.'s.



An artillery unit in the 4th Military zone

SINCE the beginning of April, the North Vietnamese army and people have duly punished the U.S. aggressors' new war escalations and especially U.S., puppet warships which bombed the D.R.V. territory.

On Apr. 3, at 15.00 hours, Thanh Hoa sank one puppet commando boat.

On Apr. 5, Ha Tinh hit and damaged 2 U. S. warships.

Next day, another warship was hit and caught fire off Thanh Hoa.

On Apr. 7, 2 more U. S. warships were hit off Ha Tinh seacoast.

The 3 destroyers—*Duncan, Wadell* and *Turner Joy*—were among these damaged ships, the U.S. command admitted.

In the period from Feb. 26 to Apr. 7, when the U.S. aggressors started new escalation against the North, the local armed forces and people 14 times hit and damaged U.S. warships and sank one puppet commando boat. In retaliation for U.S. artillery shelling across the demilitarised zone, the Vietnam People's Army dealt a heavy blow on Mar. 20 at a U.S. gun emplacements in Doc Mieu, Quang Tri province, wiping out 1,070 G.I.'s and destroying 17 artillery pieces, 57 military vehicles, 5 aircraft and a petrol dump.

Together with the downing of 1,752 U.S. aircraft since Aug. 5, 1964, these new military successes are the most categorical replies given by the North Vietnamese armed forces and people to the U.S. aggressors in their war escalations.

HERE AND THERE IN D.R.V.

• Haiphong overfulfils its handicraft production plan in the first quarter of 1967

THE handicraft production plan of Haiphong in the first quarter of 1967 was overfulfilled by 6 per cent, or 12 per cent over last year, reaching 28 per cent of the total production of the whole year.

• 1966 plan of fishing products overfulfilled in many provinces

DESPITE U. S. air and naval bombings, the Vinh Linh region, Quang Binh (near the provisional demarcation line), the provinces of Ha Tinh, Nghe An and Thai Binh, fulfilled the 1966 plan by from 1 to 33 per cent for fishing products.

• Thanh Hoa inhabitants complete their program of economic construction of mountain regions

CARRYING out the program of economic construction of the upland, midland and seacoast regions (of small demographic density), more than 100,000 people of Thanh Hoa province have left the plain to settle down in the mountain regions. Over 30,000 persons have joined the existing co-operatives of the highlanders and the remaining set up 207 new agricultural cooperatives. Over 21,000 hectares of land have been farmed and thousands of hectares of one-crop ricefields turned into two-crop fields.

Women workers of Haiduong mechanical workshop: they are resolved to overfulfil their production targets

• Young volunteers' shock brigades' complementary study in the struggle against U.S. imperialists and for national salvation

OVER the past two years, the movement for complementary study in the young volunteers' shock brigades has known a swift, harmonious and continuous development despite the working conditions of these brigades in localities most exposed to enemy raids and the pressing need of the plan.

In most of these units, all those who have finished primary and elementary schooling, continued their study. The youth of Brigade 41 went on studying in the course of their 170km long march.

The brigades of Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces have completed in the main the program of primary schooling. Primary education courses were organized in many units and secondary classes opened in some others.

In many units, 90 per cent and in some others 100 per cent of students successfully passed to higher classes.

IN all the province, there are over 1,000 nurseries (permanent or seasonal) looking after 8,000 children (from sucklings to 3 years old babies). All these nurseries are provided with solid trench-shelters, and over 1,400 nurses have attended courses on the bringing up of children and emergency help during air raids.

PRODUCTION MAINTAINED IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

In order to reduce to the minimum the effects of American air raids and insure the continuity of production, the managing boards of various industrial enterprises in the D.R.V. have taken such measures as evacuation and scattering of bases of production and building of air-defence shelters for workers and machines.

In view of the eventual war escalation by the U.S., many workshops have sought more effective methods to keep production going under any circumstances.

Below are some measures taken in this regard by the Thong Nhat *Bicycle Factory (Hanoi).*

IMMEDIATELY after the first U.S. bombs were dropped on Hanoi, like their fellows at other factories in North Vietnam, the workers of the *Thong Nhat* bicycle factory already thought of this contingency: faced with ever heavier defeats in South Vietnam the U.S. imperialists might make still more serious escalations in the North by striking more fiercely at the factories and populated urban areas.

"The war may last another five, ten, twenty years or even longer. Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities and enterprises may be destroyed, but the Vietnamese people will not be intimidated! Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. Once victory is won, our people will rebuild our country and endow it with bigger and more beautiful constructions". This appeal of President Ho Chi Minh for resistance to U.S. aggression to save the country has aroused the patriotism and determination to fight and win of the workers at the *Thong Nhat* bicycle factory who are resolved not to let the U.S. pirates destroy their machines and equipment nor to slow down or interrupt production in any circumstances. Along with the evacuation of machines and personnel and intensive measures of air defence, the Party Committee, managing board and Trade Union organization of the factory called a special conference to discuss the stepped-up application of science and technique to wartime production. The patriotic engineers and technicians, the old cadres from armament factories in the former war of resistance against the French colonialists possessed of a wealth of experiences in the organization of production suggested many hand or foot-operated devices to ensure continued functioning of the machines in case of eventual electric power failure. But a question which raised heated debates was "would the alterations feasible in the case of such modern machines as the universal lathe or the specialized lathe". Final decision was reached encouraging each workshop in the factory to contrive its own emergency device for experimental use.

So the first hand or foot-operated machines were completed in a short period of time. Technicians and workers were invited to have a look at the machines, hear the designers explain their mechanism and utility. And they could see for themselves whether this semi-mechanized tool could spare labour force and were up to the mark, in terms of standard and productivity. The conclusion drawn from the first experimental drive was that these machines could ensure the normal process of metal cutting as well as the precision and polish of the manufactured goods.

After work-time the workers at various workshops enthusiastically sought to improve the foot-operated emergency devices, anticipating the difficulties that might crop up with new enemy escalations. Finally their determination has yielded initial successes. The foot-operated emergency devices fitted to the universal lathes, the specialized lathes, the drilling and planing machines, the air-compression painting machines... were turned out one after another. It goes without saying that the output of such machines could not match with the electrically operated ones but the workers decided that it was much better than letting production be interrupted even for a minute. "This is anyway an expression of our determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors" they thought. No wonder therefore that in spite of innumerable difficulties it met in 1966 the Thong Nhat bicycle factory turned out by itself 39 machines pieces and equipment for its own use, 543 supplementary parts for machine tools, and 36,278 tools. The workers at the factory introduced 208 technical innovations which helped fulfil the State Plan 21 days and a half ahead of schedule.

One day the executives at the factory decided to check the workers' preparedness to cope with any emergency situation. The alarm was given to all production teams. Electricity was cut off. All the machines came to a stop. But only a dozen minutes later most of them resumed operation thanks to the newly-contrived emergency hand or foot-operated machines.

Meanwhile the self-defence units of the workers took up position in their fortifications, ready to open fire at U.S. air pirates to defend their beloved factory.

Wilson

THE WHOLE WORLD *is on our side*

ON Apr. 3, 1967, over 500 professors and students of Patrice Lumumba University (U.S.S.R.) held a meeting sponsored by the South East Asian Student Association in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression. The meeting passed a resolution supporting the Vietnamese people, the 4 points of the D.R.V. government and 5 points of the South Vietnam N.F.L. and demanded that the U.S. stop immediately the bombing of the D.R.V. and withdraw its troops from South Vietnam; the demonstrators pledged themselves to help the Vietnamese people by every means to defeat the American aggressors.

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RENMIN RIBAO (China) carried on Apr. 2 an editorial sternly condemning the American imperialists and the Thai reactionary authorities for having set up a B.52 base in Thailand and stepping up the bombing of Vietnam. The editorial stressed,

"The establishment of a B.52 base in Thailand is a grave challenge to the peoples of Indo-China and South-East Asia. This military adventure will be strongly opposed and the U.S. imperialists duly punished. The sending of B.52 bombers to Thailand is a threat to the security of the Asian people including the Thai people. By turning themselves into an instrument of aggression for the American imperialists and becoming the enemy of the Vietnamese people and other peoples of Asia, the Thai puppet authorities are heading for their downfall".

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THE German Democratic Republic issued on Apr. 5 a declaration condemning U.S. escalation in Vietnam. The declaration stressed *"The Government of the G.D.R. strongly condemns the crimes commited by the American imperialists and their stooges, demand that they stop immediately all aggression and terror against the people of South Vietnam, ends unconditionally all bombing raids and other aggressive acts against the D.R.V. The government of the G.D.R. welcomes and supports the Feb. 28, 1967 statement of the South Vietnam N.F.L., the most recent statement of the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry and President Ho Chi Minh's reply to President Johnson, which have once again made clear that the road to peace in Vietnam is an end of U.S. aggression. The government of the G.D.R. reaffirms its fraternal sympathy with the Vietnamese people now fighting heroically and expresses its solidarity with the D.R.V., government and the Central Committee of the South Vietnam N.F.L.".*

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ON the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the liberation of Hungary (April 4), Rezsoe Nyers, a political bureau member, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, in his speech over Budapest T.V., said regarding Vietnam, *"We cannot remain idle so long as half a million American troops are in Vietnam and are waging a war of destruction against the heroic Vietnamese people. We are dutybound to condemn the American aggression and to support Vietnam by all political, economic and military means".*

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ON Apr. 5, 1967, the Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Journalists' Association issued a statement criticizing U Thant's three-step proposal on Vietnam. The statement pointed out, "That proposal was made public on Mar. 28, 1967, immediately after the Guam Conference for the stepping up of the Vietnam war, and right at the moment when the U.S. was escalating the war as planned. By not drawing a clear line between the aggressor and the victim of aggression, the new proposal has gone the length of asking the Vietnamese people who are fighting for the defence of their country, to stop the war and lay down their arms while over 400,000 American aggressors are still occupying their country".

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PROGRESSIVE people in Great Britain and the British-Vietnam Committee decided to observe from April 10 to 15 a Vietnam Week to support the just and certainly victorious struggle of the Vietnamese people, and condemn U.S. policy of aggression. The statement on the observance of *Vietnam Week* condemned the U.S. aggressive policy in Vietnam and foresaw the victory of the struggle of the Vietnamese people in both parts of the country.

RECENTLY a communiqué was issued in Bucharest by the Rumanian Communist Party and the Italian Communist Party on the occasion of the visit to Rumania of a delegation of the Italian Communist Party headed by L. Longo, secretary general of the Party. In this communiqué, both parties affirmed their total support for the anti U.S.-struggle of the Vietnamese people and stressed that the Americans should end unconditionally all bombings and acts of aggression against Vietnam and respect the Vietnamese people's right to decide their national reunification and development.

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AT a meeting of the Czechoslovak National Assembly held on Apr. 6, Foreign Minister V. David declared, *"The Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia is on the side of the heroic Vietnamese people and supports them politically and materially in their just struggle. Like all other socialist countries and peace-loving people in the world, we condemn U.S. aggression against Vietnam and demand that the U.S. put an immediate end to it".*

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THE Summit conference of five African countries: Algeria, the U.A.R., Tanzania, Mauritania and Guinea held from April 4, 1967 in Cairo, between President H. Boumedienne, President A.G. Nasser, President J. Nyéréré President Mokhtar Dadah and National Assembly Chairman Leon Maka issued a communiqué demanding that the U.S. withdraw its troops from Vietnam, recognize the South Vietnam N.F.L. as the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnam people and refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of Vietnam.

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D.R.V. FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON NEW U.S. PROVOCATIVE ACTS AGAINST NORTH KOREA

(Statement of April 12, 1967 of the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry)

ON April 5, 1967, the U.S. imperialists again committed a new provocation in the temporary military demarcation area in North Korea. They fired hundreds of shots at Korean civil policemen on routine duty in a demarcation post in North Korea, killing five of them and wounding another.

As everybody knows, for months now, particularly since U.S. President L. Johnson arrived in South Korea in November 1966, the U.S. imperialists and their puppets — the Pak Jung Hi clique — have many times used artillery, aircraft and warships and commandos smuggled into North Korea, to conduct acts of provocation and sabotage against the the Korean Democratic People's Republic. The armed provocation on April 5 exposed still more clearly their bellicose nature.

This is a direct threat to peace in Asia and a brazen challenge to peace- and justice-loving countries all over the world. The U.S. imperialists will have to bear full responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam fully supports the correct stand of the Government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic which was expounded in the statement of April 7, 1967 of the Foreign Ministry of the K.D.P.R. and resolutely condemns the serious acts of violation of the armistice agreement on Korea committed by the U.S. and its henchmen. The U.S. must stop at once all acts of provocation and sabotage against the Korean Democratic People's Republic, withdraw all its troops from South Korea and let the Korean people settle themselves their internal affairs.

The Vietnamese people stand shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Korean people and resolutely support the Korean people to foil all provocative schemes and acts of the U.S. imperialists against the Korean Democratic People's Republic. The sacred struggle of the Korean people for peace and reunification of the Fatherland will certainly win glorious victory.

FOREIGN PRESS OPINION

U Thant Deprives a Nation of Its Right To Self Defence

"THESE proposals, made public on Mar. 28, 1967, followed hard on the heels of the Guam conference called by U.S. imperialism to plan the expansion of its war of aggression, and were put forth at a time when the U.S. imperialists were still carrying out their pre-meditated escalation.

"Without making any distinction between the aggressors and the victim of aggression, these 'new proposals' went so far as to demand that the Vietnamese people, who are defending their country against aggression, should stop fighting and lay down their arms while more than 400,000 U.S. aggressor troops are occupying their territory...".

Statement of the Secretariat of the Afro Asian Journalists' Association, Apr. 5, 1967.

"U THANT'S so-called peace proposals in fact fit in with the aggressive proposals of the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam as they have not drawn a demarcation line between the aggressor and the victim of aggression and recognized the legal position of the South Vietnam N.F.L., the genuine and only representative of the South Vietnamese people.

"These proposals were put forward right at the moment when the U.S. imperialists still refused to renounce their ambitions to invade Vietnam and even sought to realize these ambitions by widening their aggressive war.

"This is tantamount to asking the Vietnamese to give up their struggle against the aggressors, to submit to them and accept their "terms". This encourages the U.S. imperialists to persist in their policy of war expansion under a "peace" smokescreen, and helps their plot to shift the responsibility for the situation in Vietnam on to her people...".

Rodong Shimoon
D.P.R. of Korea,
Apr. 5, 1967

"U.S. imperialists aggression is the source of the Vietnam war. The Vietnamese people are fighting against the U.S. aggressors. This is the legitimate right to self-defence of a nation.

"By proposing that the Vietnamese people cease-fire while more than 420,000 U.S. troops were invading Vietnam, Mr. Thant is depriving a nation of its right to self-defence and sanctioning the war of aggression by U.S. imperialism".

Radio *Pathet Lao*

(Continued page 6)

TO AMERICAN PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS

Dear friends,

I am writing this letter to you at a time when you are fully engaged in your Spring Mobilization against the American dirty war in Vietnam. That is why the very first thing I want to tell you is: What you are doing is very important and very urgent, and is a great source of encouragement for the Vietnamese people as well as for all peace-loving people in the world.

President Johnson has just closed his Guam conference aimed at intensifying and expanding the war in Vietnam. He is making new and extremely dangerous steps in war escalation in both North and South Vietnam although the word "escalation" is being carefully avoided in all official documents. At the same time, he is launching a big, skillfully-conducted propaganda and diplomatic campaign in which old tunes are being rehashed by British Premier Wilson, Australian Premier Holt and other old acquaintances. The meaning of all this is that after suffering repeated setbacks on the battlefields of Vietnam over the past few months, Johnson is conducting a large-scale psychological offensive, the purpose of which is, first, to deceive the American and world people and, second, to threaten our people and those of the other socialist countries, in the hope of driving us to the conference table and forcing us to negotiate on his own terms. To prop up this scheme, he is rallying all his American and "allied" forces to launch even more destructive and barbarous attacks on our country and our people. This means that your G.I.'s will be guilty of even more odious crimes, but this also means that they shall suffer ever heavier losses.

That is why, now more than ever, you, Americans who are conscious of your historic responsibility in this war, and we, Vietnamese people, we should increase our co-operation and better co-ordinate our actions within the World Peoples' Front against the American war of aggression in Vietnam, so as to uncover and defeat this new and extremely dangerous plot of the Johnson administration.

In our joint effort to achieve this aim, we are benefiting from favourable conditions which we have never known before. Never, indeed, have the Americans and the Vietnamese people found themselves so close to each other. In former times, you were a rich and distant nation, very distant from us, much more distant than one would judge from geographical maps. Cultured Americans did not even know the name of our country. In the period following World War Two, on account of frantic anti-communist propaganda and intense segregationist activities in the United States, a fairly large number of Americans were ready to give unreserved support to any hostile policy which their government would carry out against our country. The majority of the others might feel something like compassion for us. But convinced as they were that ours is a backward nation, whose existence could hardly have any bearing on the development of world events, they directed their attention towards other targets such as, say, the Space race or the Cold War between East and West in Europe... Yet, even at that time, a number of Americans raised their voices to oppose the dangerous policy of intervention and aggression advocated by the U.S. government. But since 1961, the situation has changed. The American warmongers have started a large-scale, brazen aggressive war upon our country. Running up against unexpectedly vigorous resistance, they have resorted to war means which even the Hitlerite fascists had shrunk from: poison gas, napalm, indiscriminate bombings by B-52's, etc. At the same time, they have sustained losses which they have found harder and harder to cover up, and have had to spend huge sums which could no longer be buried away in other chapters of the Budget or carried over to the next fiscal year. The ordinary American citizen has realized at last that we are a living reality, a patriotic people fighting for an ideal, something one could not very easily erase from the surface of this earth. A number of noble-minded Americans, the most outstanding of whom was Norman Morrison, and a fairly large number of professors, students, scientists and other intellectuals have begun to discover that they are in presence of a huge plot carried out by the administration to hide from the American people the serious losses suffered, and worse still, the horrible crimes perpetrated by the American troops in Vietnam. They have raised their voices to protest, and have organized themselves to protest. To uncover more completely the schemes and crimes of their rulers, a number of American citizens have sought every means to visit our country in defiance of their own government. They have conducted direct investigations on the spot, had talks with Vietnamese leaders and met Vietnamese people of all strata. This has given the Americans a better knowledge of the Vietnamese, and conversely we have come to know them better. However, more understanding is still needed, and for that purpose there should be more contacts and exchanges of views between us. I would like to make a few suggestions in this connection.

As far as I know, many of you American friends are sincerely concerned about what is happening to us, a small and weak nation which is obstinately resisting a great power with seemingly unlimited economic and military potential. Is it because of "inadequate" knowledge of science, technology and American psychology that we have "underestimated" the power and the sinister designs of the American imperialists? We are grateful to you friends for this concern, which springs from humane feelings. For us, to form a correct estimate of our enemy's strength is something we must constantly bear in mind. Indeed, in waging our resistance war against American aggression, we have never permitted ourselves to lose sight of the fact that our country is still lagging behind in modern technology. Conscious of our responsibility towards the world peoples as well as our own people, we are fully aware that we must fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors in a struggle which cannot be but a protracted and hard one. So we have to make very careful calculations. So far we have not made use of electronic computers as they do in the Pentagon, and yet all our predictions have come true whereas those of the White House have all miserably collapsed. It is no mere accident that over the past six years, not only have our Southern compatriots not been subdued but they have won repeated victories and are winning ever greater ones. Likewise, it is not by accident that our Northern compatriots have shot down over 1,700 American aircraft, which are among the best in the world. At present, the White House and the Pentagon are taking great liberties with facts and figures in an effort to present a falsely optimistic picture of the war to the American people. To falsify figures is indeed merely routine matter with most Western military staffs. But the American Command in Vietnam has so far broken all records, outdoing the worst liars in military history. We, on the contrary, publish only facts and figures which we know as being true, and indeed we cannot do otherwise. To win, we must see the truth clearly and tell it plainly. To try to deceive our own people and the other peoples is to deceive ourselves and to destroy the very source of our strength. Whatever twisted arguments the White House may put forth, it cannot deny the fact that only after six years of aggression on our small country, U.S. economic and military potential has proved itself far from being limitless. On the contrary, in many aspects, if not in all, it has shown great limitations. In manpower, ammunition supplies, as well as in the number of planes and in logistical support, the American military machine, although a gigantic one, has failed to show full combat readiness. The very nature of material things is to have limitations, in Vietnam as well as in the United States. The key problem is how to use them, and what for. American war expenditures in Vietnam have now reached 25 billion dollars in figures made public, i.e. 3% of U.S. gross national product. This cannot fail to throw the American economy off balance and seriously hamper the realization of other important targets. This you know even better than we do. As a scientific worker, I cannot help noting that American investments for scientific research are also about 25 billion dollars, of which more than 60% for military research, while only 2 billion are allotted to fundamental research. It is clear that for the United States these are strategic investments, even more important than defence investments. The least cutback in these investments would cause unforeseeable disturbances in the development of American science as well as in the life and activities of American scientific workers. War escalation in Vietnam means de-escalation in American scientific research.

American friends often wish to know about the effect in Vietnam of the anti-war movement in the United States. As we have said repeatedly, we consider this movement as having a great significance and ever-increasing effect. The Vietnamese people warmly hail their American friends and are deeply grateful to them. In the last analysis, the aggressive war waged by President Johnson against our country is a war conducted in the name of the American people, at the expense of American wealth and blood. That is why we fully approve of your efforts to make the American man in the street know clearly who is responsible for the war in Vietnam, who is making war criminals of American young men and who is driving them to shameful and unlamented death; hence to make him realize that the only correct way to end the war in Vietnam is the following: whoever has sent American troops to Vietnam should withdraw them from there; whoever has ordered the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, an independent and sovereign nation which has done no harm to the United States, should put a definitive and unconditional end to such bombing, and should not use temporary pauses as bargaining assets for further criminal action, also to make it clear to him that it is up to the American people to defend the right of every nation to shape its own destiny. In short, your struggle is a just one, for it is indispensable at present to make the American people love their American country, love their American youth, and take a resolute stand in defence of their fundamental interests, in defence of the fine traditions and the legitimate prestige of the American nation. Naturally, the greater and nobler its aim, the harder and more protracted the struggle will be. And the more effective your struggle grows, the more the American authorities will increase their deceptive manoeuvres, threats and repression. As for us, we promise to you that we shall do our part. First of all, as President Ho Chi Minh has said in his reply to President Johnson, we shall never negotiate under the threat of American bombs.

Best wishes of glorious success for your Spring Mobilization.

TA QUANG BUU
Professor
Vice-Chairman, State Committee of Sciences and Technology of Vietnam

Opening of Vietnam Week in the U.S. (April 8-15, 1967)

Demonstration of New York Students for an End to Bombing and Shelling of Vietnam; an End to U.S. Aggression and Withdrawal of American Troops from South Vietnam:

RECENTLY 200 American students representing anti-war groups from various universities, it is reported from the U.S., met in San Francisco, called on the American students to respond to the "Vietnam Week" observed in the U.S. from Apr. 8 to 15, 1967, to condemn U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam and urged the students and people in the world to support this week.

Opening the "Vietnam Week" in New York on Apr. 8, 1967, the students paraded through the main thoroughfares and met in the business quarters of the city to protest against the aggressive war in Vietnam. They put up such slogans as "end the bombing and shelling of Vietnam" and sternly condemned the dirty American war in Vietnam.

In its Jan. 17, 1967 issue the American magazine *Students Mobilizer* carried an article on the observance of the "Vietnam Week".

(Continued from page 5)

FOREIGN PRESS OPINION

U Thant Deprives a Nation of Its Right To Self Defence

"THE war in Vietnam is stepped up not because the Vietnamese people refuse U Thant's proposal but because the U.S. intensifies its aggression against Vietnam. To end the war, it is necessary to demand that the aggressor withdraws from Vietnam. Those who blame the victim of aggression to oppose the aggressor are the ones who side with the latter. This means to lighten the aggressor crimes and cause more sufferings to the victim".

People
Burma, Apr. 9, 1967

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"THE socalled "new three-point proposal" made by U Thant is worse than his former one.

This "new proposal" was made just after the sinister Guam conference held by the U.S. imperialists to step up their aggressive war in Vietnam".

Resolution of the Ceylonese Journalists' Conference held on Apr. 8, 1967

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"Last week Mr Thant doubtless lost most of his chance to play one day the role of mediator in the Vietnam affair.

"...U Thant has understood it. He has come back to his position. He was aware that in the eyes of all — the Americans first — he "passed over" to Washington's side. He has once again redefined his plan and this time has clearly recognized that it was up to the Vietnamese to take the initiative by unilaterally deciding a cease-fire. That is in fact by stopping an action they have begun".

Le Figaro
France, Apr. 3, 1967

Wason

IN SOUTH VIETNAM LIBERATED AREAS

PRODUCTION CONSTANTLY EXPANDS

STEPPING up their war, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen in South Vietnam have been springing ever fiercer attacks on South Vietnam liberated areas. Under the leadership of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the South Vietnamese people are resolved to hold to their land, defend their villages, fight while producing, thereby meeting the requirements of their daily life and the increasing needs of the resistance war.

QUANG NAM PROVINCE

THE acreage under cultivation in the province continues to expand. The northern districts are provided with 207 pumps and 16 waterwheels, with more canals and dams to bring water to the fields and keep off salt water.

Many parts in Duy Xuyen district now grow three crops a year instead of one as before and yield from 75 to 250 kilos of paddy per sao (one-third of an acre). Thanks to parallel cultivation and a rotation of crops, the average annual rice output is now 6.6 tons per hectare. In Dien Ban district where the ricefields were flooded by salt or alumina water, the peasants hoe most of their land to make good the shortage of motive power, manure it with ash and willow leaves to prevent salt-saturation. A species of high yield rice that can stand alumina has been grown and brought in a good harvest. At L. hamlet, standard bearer of the district, surplus output resulting from increased productivity and expanded acreage alone is able to make up the villagers' "contributions for the liberation" for a whole year.

SOUTHERN TRUNG BO (CENTRAL VIETNAM)

THE acreage under rice and cassava roots has been expanded in all mountain districts of Binh Thuan province. In Ninh Thuan, the volume of three-month rice increased 20 percent over that of 1965. In Le Hong Phong district, along Highway 1, the land affected by U.S. toxic chemicals have been put back under cultivation and have recorded a substantial output.

In Lam Dong and Ninh Thuan provinces, the quantity of seeds used in 1966 increased respectively by 7,000 and 100 baskets compared with that in the previous year. The area planted to cassava roots has also been expanded.

The Mo Nong nationals in Darlac province, are emulating the people in other provinces. Almost all working peasants have joined co-operatives; oppression and exploitation have been eliminated. The amount of manpower and material wealth contributed to the struggle against U.S. aggression for national salvation rises sharply. The Congress of production held by the Mo Nong people in the liberated areas of Darlac demonstrated their determitation to boost production and to achieve this year an average per head yield of 600 kilos of mealy substance.

WESTERN NAM BO (SOUTH VIETNAM)

THIS region is characterized by its valiant efforts to overcome natural calamities and recoup the damage caused by the enemy. Rach Gia, Can Tho and Vinh Long provinces which were recently hit by flood could complete autumn rice planting on the whole area. In Tra Vinh, the acreage under autumn rice was 14 percent larger than in 1965. The three-month rice was grown in greater quantity and the gardens and orchards were enlarged. In Tra Vinh alone there was an increase of 300 hectares compared with 1965.

The rearing of buffaloes, cows, pigs and poultry has developed notably in Can Tho, Rach Gia, Soc Trang, Tra Vinh where 36,200 buffaloes, 222,000 pigs, and millions of chickens and ducks were raised more than in 1965. Can Tho and Ca Mau are provided in addition with 314,400 fish rearing ponds.

Mutual exchanges and mutual aid teams have multiplied in many areas along with "harvesting volunteers" teams to help the people in the seven-province-controlled area during harvest time. Mutual exchange teams number 2,350 in the three provinces of Ca Mau, Rach Gia and Soc Trang.

On the basis of collective labour, the application of science and technique in production has been pushed ahead as in seed selection, dipping of seeds according to scientific methods, growing of azolla pinnata (a kind of water lily) and in irrigation work.

PLAIN OF REEDS AND MY THO

BESIDES fierce attacks by the enemy, the Plain of Reeds last year was struck by floods which devastated the crops. But the acreage of autumn rice remains unchanged. The area grown to early rice increased from three to five-fold that of 1965. Mutual exchange and mutual aid teams are growing in number. Satisfactory measures to prevent insects and floods have been taken in many localities, saving over 1,000 hectares of ricefields from disaster.

Thanks to the improved planting technique, the average output throughout My Tho province reaches approximately 4.6 tons per hectare. Remarkable is the fact that the whole province is provided with shelters for buffaloes and cows which are also given prophylactic care. On an average, every family raises one pig and 35 ducks or chickens.

U.S. TROOPS...

(Continued from page 8)

gases used on a large scale, and all of them have ended in fiasco. It is clear that U.S. troops have been unable to root out the L.A.F., because the latter have always come out immediately after each operation or a few days later to strike at the retreating invaders or hit them in areas not subjected to "sweeps". Even in areas surrounding Saigon, the L.A.F. relentlessly harassed the enemy and inflicted losses on them. The 4th attack on the Long Binh logistical base (Feb. 4), the damage caused to the 10,000-ton freighter *Longmer* on the Long Tau river (Mar. 16) and the Dau Bang battle (Mar. 19) are a few cases in point.

Apart from their setbacks on the East Nam Bo battlefield — their main operational theatre — the Americans sustained serious casualties and were driven into the defensive on other battlefields.

In Quang Tri province close to the demilitarized zone, in the three days ending Mar. 3 alone, the L.A.F. fired more than 1,800 rounds of artillery accurately at U.S. 175-mm artillery positions, destroying 7 guns and virtually wiping out 5 U.S. companies. In all, in the first half of March, they wiped out more than 3,000 enemy troops (including 2,300 Americans), destroyed 14 artillery pieces and 23 tanks and AFC's, and shot down 19 planes.

In the Western High Plateaux, American lack of initiative was all the more serious and G.I.'s badly trounced. U.S. troops tried hard to "spot" the L.A.F. for artillery and aircraft to wipe them out but the L.A.F. were nowhere to be found. When the L.A.F. spread the enemy on the banks of the Sa Thay river, it was the enemy that took "round beatings". Following the L.A.F. attack on Pleiku base (Jan. 7) which resulted in 60 planes destroyed or damaged, 5 petrol dumps burnt and 155 G.I.'s wiped out, on Feb. 15 and 16, 4 U.S. companies were virtually destroyed.

In their key pacification areas, that is, the coastal fringe of the 5th interzone, where they entertain every hope to regroup people to extend the links between their bases and to reopen Highway 1, and raid communications, the U.S. aggressors also sustained bitter defeats. In this region, stands out the **second characteristic** of the situation in the period under review, i.e. the heaviest ever punitive blows dealt at Pak Jung Hi mercenary troops by the L.A.F. In Quang Ngai province alone, in the three battles of Jan. 1, Feb. 2 and Feb. 15, one battalion and 3 companies of Pak Jung Hi mercenaries were completely wiped out. This has made a mockery of the title of "Crack Blue Dragon Brigade" and their traditional *karate*, so much advertised to exhort the troops to burn all, kill all and destroy all during military operations. In this same province, in the three days ending Feb. 19, the L.A.F. annihilated or heavily mauled 2 puppet multi-battalions.

"Pacification" being inoperative and "sweeps" only meeting with serious failure, no wonder Da Nang, Bong Son and Tam Ky rear bases have come under constant attacks.

The third outstanding trait of this dry season and also of the situation in the first three months of this year is that American troops were committed to the Mekong Delta to replace the puppet troops already driven into a defensive position and confining themselves to holding territory. Deployed into this immense delta region crisscrossed by rivers and canals to contend with the revolutionary forces for this vast rear and to relieve the pressure on Saigon's back door, the American troops have fully exposed themselves as naked aggressors. This further shows the critical condition of the puppet army.

On various battlefields, the puppet troops have been assigned the "house mother" task; but in the Mekong Delta, the American troops have had to shoulder part of this burden in the current dry season. Yet, U.S. troops' presence on this battlefield can in no way check the vigorous development of the revolutionary movement. The L.A.F. foiled Operation *Deckhouse V*, annihilated 4 puppet battalions in Cholon, Tra Vinh and Ben Tre provinces, wiped out 600 enemy troops in a single day (Feb. 18) barely 2km from Ben Tre provincial capital, and sank or damaged 10 U.S. war vessels on Ham Luong river (Ben Tre province). This presages the unavoidable defeat of U.S. troops on the land of the "Brass Wall of the Fatherland".

In the last quarter of last year, the U.S. aggressors had already suffered heavy setbacks, and their heaviest one was recorded in Operation *Attleboro*. In the first three months of this year, American casualties rose even higher on all battlefields, especially in their main operational theatre.

The fourth outstanding mark is the L.A.F. hard blows at the enemy rear bases with their rather high tactical and technical skill and their use of weapons with more flexibility and deadlier effect.

Across South Vietnam, almost all major U.S.-puppet satellite bases were subjected to L.A.F. attacks, and their losses were heavy. From the Long Binh logistical base, Tan Son Nhat airfield, Chu Lai and Da Nang bases, Quang Thanh stronghold and Quang Dien military subsector to the airfields in the provincial capitals of My Tho, Vinh Long and Can Tho and even the centre of Saigon, no places were immune from L.A.F. attacks. In particular the recent raids on the U.S. Da Nang military base and on U.S. artillery positions at Gio Linh clearly show the highly ingenious manning of weapons by the L.A.F. The raid on Quang Thanh position held by a battalion of Pak Jung Hi mercenaries and the two attacks on Quang Dien military sub-sector close to Hue city further tell of continuous growth of the L.A.F.

The last but not least important feature is the ability of the L.A.F. to strike at communication lines. Although the Americans have drawn bloody lessons from their setbacks on Highway 13 between Saigon and Loc Ninh, they continue to receive hard blows and suffer even heavier defeats. The most typical of all battles fought by the L.A.F. on communication lines in the period under review was that of Bau Bang (Mar. 19) in which they eliminated one U.S. multi-battalion force comprising 3 infantry and armoured battalions with 100 military vehicles including 54 tanks and APC's. Next came the ambush on the road between Chu Lai and Da Nang (Mar. 24) in which the L.A.F. destroyed 148 military vehicles of different types, damaged 59 others and annihilated one U.S. company, one puppet company and one South Korean platoon.

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AT the threshold of the dry season, the Americans doubled their troop strength and doubled or trebled their means of war, compared with the previous years. Faced with a situation in which the puppet troops proved themselves powerless, failing even to perform their "house mother" task in an appropriate manner, the Americans have had to spread their forces thin to guard their bases and dispute and hold territory. As a result, each time they muster their mobile forces their flanks are left exposed. This explains their heavy failure everywhere. Meanwhile, the L.A.F. turn to account the people's hatred for the aggressors and the growth of their three kinds of troops. That is why every inch of land in South Vietnam has been turned into a battle ground, and the American aggressors and their puppets get beaten everywhere. On the other hand, the annihilating power of the L.A.F. which continue to grow both quantitatively and qualitatively is on the upgrade. As the war in South Vietnam drags on, the morale of puppet troops will sink further, the American aggressors will land into a still greater predicament and go down deeper in the bog and final victory will certainly belongs to the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces.

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TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

South Vietnam — *On the night of April 5, 1967*

U.S.-CONTROLLED BASES, TOWNS AND TOWNLETS IN QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES VIOLENTLY ATTACKED

ACCORDING to *G.P.X.* (Liberation Press Agency), on the night of April 5 and at dawn of April 6, the L.A.F. violently attacked the Tu Ha military base of Regiment 3" puppet First Division, and the La Vang military base of Regiment 1, same division, and at the same time made a thrust into Quang Tri provincial capital. On April 5, they also mounted a surprise attack on an enemy training centre 2 km southwest of Hue city.

The Tu Ha base, about 350m. by 700m., lying on Highway 1, barely 10 km northwest of Hue city, was completely destroyed after one hour's fighting

The La Vang base, covering an area about 40 ha. and lying close to Quang Tri provincial capital, was also completely wiped out in 30 minutes.

In their attacks against these military bases, the L.A.F. completely put out of action 2 puppet regimental headquarters comprising one battalion and 3 companies of infantry, 2 artillery companies, one mortar company, 2 transport companies, 2 armoured sub-regiments and one tank unit, and routed one puppet battalion. Two puppet regimental commanders were killed in action.

In the same period, the L.A.F. broke into Quang Tri provincial capital, demolished most of the military sub-sector headquarters and the puppet administration offices and held the city for 4 hours. They annihilated one Security Forces company, inflicted heavy losses on another and took 70 more casualties among U.S. "advisers".

On the same day, the L.A.F. killed, wounded or captured 125 enemy troops after a few minutes of fighting at the political training centre for civil guards, 2km southwest of Hue city.

Thus, within 24 hours, the L.A.F. wiped out 1,845 enemy troops, destroyed more than 200 armoured cars, 10 105mm and 155mm howitzers, 3 aircraft, 3 81-mm mortars, 10 machineguns and many ammunition depots, and captured a sizeable quantity of arms and military equipment.

On the night of April 5, the L.A.F. also ambushed one U.S. company in a village of Quang Dien district, 10km Northwest of Hue City, wiping out 80 of the enemy.

These big victories, chalked up by the L.A.F. in the very lair of the enemy, which has been boastfully described as closely guarded, strongly fortified and safest, are very significant. They show that:

— no base, however strengthened and deep in the enemy's rear, can escape the punishment by the L.A.F.;

— far from having their forces "split", the L.A.F. have always taken the initiative to strike stunning blows at the enemy;

— although the enemy have vast troop strength and modern weapons, yet they fail to parry the blows and come to the rescue of one another since they are spread thin and beaten from all sides by the 3 kinds of troops of the South Vietnam L.A.F. (regular force, regional troops and guerillas).

— as sons of the people, the L.A.F. are whole-heartedly assisted by the people in wiping out the aggressors and their lackeys.

L.A.F. ATTACKS ON OTHER ENEMY BASES

• On the night of April 8 and at dawn of April 9, the L.A.F. shelled the biggest U.S. helicopter landing pad in An Khe. The enemy admitted that at least 10 helicopters, including 5 Chinooks had been destroyed and many G.I.'s killed or wounded.

• On the night of April 4, the L.A.F. launched a series of attacks against a police station, a military post and a puppet barracks 6km from the centre of Saigon city. The police station, the post and 8 lodgings of the barracks were set on fire and demolished, and many enemy troops killed or wounded.

• Earlier, on the night of March 14, the L.A.F. stormed Nha Trang airfield in the "safe" rear of the enemy at the sea shore. They wiped out 100 G.I.'s and destroyed 26 planes of different types This was the 3rd attack on this same airfield.

OTHER L.A.F. VICTORIES

• On the night of March 31, the L.A.F. attacked puppet Battalion 37 nicknamed "Black Tiger" stationed along Highway N° One in Saigon-Giadinh: 2 of its companies were destroyed while the 3rd sustained heavy losses.

• Between March 22 and March 31, in the Mang Thit River area, 25 km Southeast of Vinh Long provincial capital, the L.A.F. mounted repeated attacks on the enemy, wiping out 1 000 of them. The enemy losses included one battalion completely wiped out, 4 other battalions heavily mauled. 11 planes shot down; 7 posts were abandoned.

First Quarter of 1967

U.S. TROOPS' REPEATED SETBACKS — HOW AND WHY?

THE most striking feature of the South Vietnam military situation in the first three months of this year is U.S. fielding the bulk of its mobile forces and all means of war available to secure a resounding victory in the main operational theatre covering the northern areas of Tay Ninh province.

Ever since the beginning of the 1966-1967 dry season, Westmoreland has been nurturing the hope of searching out and destroying the L.A.F. bases 80-100km northwest of Saigon, flush out the L.A.F. from them and at the same time regroup the people into concentration camps by way of "scooping water to kill the fish", thereby compelling the L.A.F. to split their forces, depriving them of staging areas and rendering impracticable any attacks on the major bases in Saigon and its surrounding areas. However, Operation *Attleboro* was a bitter failure: 3,200 G.I.'s were wiped out, 54 armoured cars destroyed and 52 aircraft blasted. The newly formed 196th Light Infantry Brigade was put out of action. General De Saussure was dismissed as the fighting was still in progress. The L.A.F. shelling of the military parade area in the centre of Saigon on Nov. 1, 1966, their attack on Tan Son Nhat air base and blasting of the U.S. Army Psychological war H.Q. in Saigon (Dec. 4) their three attacks on the major U.S. logistical base at Long Binh (Oct. 28, Nov. 17, Dec. 19) etc., further proved that the U.S. plan to ease the pressure on Saigon had not worked.

Operation *Cedar Falls* was launched with caution but also with more brutality in Jan. 1967 with the design to erase Ben Suc town from the map, destroy the localities of Ben Cat and Cu Chi districts, barely 30-50km northwest of Saigon. In this operation, the Americans applied their "scorched earth" tactics with the large-scale use of such devastating weapons of war as heavy bombs, napalm and toxic gases. 5,000 ha of land were burnt and a district town and many villages razed to the ground by bulldozers. Nevertheless, in the end those people herded into concentration camps — whom they called "refugees" — returned to Ben Suc one after another. On the other hand, American losses in this operation amounted to 3,200 men wiped out and 204 military vehicles of different types destroyed or damaged. Westmoreland again took pains concentrating 45,000 troops for Operation *Junction City* with the support of 800 tanks and armoured personnel carriers and 200 artillery pieces. The bigger the operation, the heavier the price. Operation *Junction City* (including Operation *Gadsden*, its curtain raiser) ended on Mar. 15 with 8,300 G.I.'s wiped out, 692 military vehicles destroyed and 119 planes shot down. Lt. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman was removed from office for "reassignment".

Once the stakes thrown, Westmoreland had to raise them higher. Five U.S. brigades were hurled into northeastern Tay Ninh. Between Mar. 20 and Apr. 3 alone, 3,100 G.I.'s were killed or wounded, 346 military vehicles destroyed (including 249 tanks and APC's), 15 artillery pieces destroyed and 40 planes shot down.

After each operation, U.S. commanders do not forget to publicize their "victories". However, in a small area not more than 100 sq. kilometres on the Tay Ninh battlefield, a series of military operations have been launched since the end of October 1966, each involving from 30,000 to 40,000 troops with substantial means of killing including napalm and toxic

(Continued page 7)

A rest of the Liberation fighters.

GI's Come Out Against the U.S. Unjust War in Vietnam

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FROM Mar. 13 to 20, 1967, three mutinies broke out in Thu Dau Mot province among the G.I.'s at Lai Khe, GPX reported.

Many soldiers disobeyed their commanders and refused to rescue the units attacked by the L.A.F. at the Tay Ninh front by throwing away their weapons and hiding themselves around their base. Later on they were arrested and savagely beaten.

On Mar. 18 in particular, not willing to participate in a war they oppose by refusing to go on a rescue mission on the Tay Ninh battlefield, two American pilots took their lives in crashing their planes against trees.

In Cholon province, on Mar. 22 and 25, many G.I.'s were ordered to board helicopters for a raid in Can Duoc district.

When on the field, they refused to comply with the orders of their commanders who finally had to bring them back to their base. In the same operation (March 22), three soldiers sit side by side and refused to take part in the killing and arson. Manhandled, they waited until the evening to return to their base.